agreement for the M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co.?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) At present, there is no proposal to take over the bookstalls held by M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. under an agreement.

(b) The contract of one of the major bookstall contractors M|S. Gulab Singh & Sons was not renewed on account of their unsatisfactory performance and it was decided to allot bookstalls at these stations to eligible categories including unemployed graduates. But the contractor has obtained a Stay Order from Delhi High Court and is operating under Court's orders.

(c) M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co were having sole selling rights at certain stations as per clause in the agreement in force upto 31-12-1984. The agreement was renewed with effect from 1-1-1985, keping in view their performance.

National Permits

216. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new procedure for issuance of National Permits for public carriers; if so, what are the details thereof, stating whether any condition regarding year of manufacture of the carrier has also been prescribed; and

(b) what is the amount of fees which has to be paid by applicants of National Permits and what is the name of the appropriate authority which has been authorised to entertain applications and to receive fees for grant of National Permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quota restrictions on National Permits for public carriers under section 63(11) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 have been removed w.e.f. 28-1-1986. The applicants who are residents of the State or have principal place of business in that State are eligible to apply.

It has been decided that the age of the vehicle operating under National Permit has to be within 9 years at any point of time, as computed from the date of registration. As for fees, it has been decided in the recent meeting of Transport Ministers of all States|UTs that composite fee in lieu of tax payable by the holder of the National Permits, will be Rs. 1500/- for each plying State and Rs. 750/- for each plying Union Territory per year, besides full tax of the Home State.

The State Transport Authorities and the Regional Transport Authorities wherever authorised by the State Governments, are empowered to grant National Permits and to collect composite fees.

Harassmen: at International Airports

217. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial comments in the 'Hindustan Times' of 9th April, 1986 regarding harassment of passengers and their relatives due to imposition of a ban on public entry at the International Airports in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to provide necessary facilities regarding seating arrangements, shelter, drinking water and toilet etc. to the air passengers and their relatives and friends; and

(c) whether Government have issued necessary instructions to the police personnel manning the gates of the airports to be courteous and polite to the passengers and other visitors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On such occasions when due to security reasons a ban on entry of visitors to airport has to be imposed, International Airport Authority of India attempt to provide temporary samianas with sitting arrangements facility of drinking water, eatables and toilets nearby.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Success of Adult Education Programme

218. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has verified and scrutinised the success of the programme of adult education in which the Central Government are spending a huge sum, if so, the findings thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government propose to have a probe into the allegation that in Orissa the programme of adult education is a complete failure and that all the money spent on this programme in Orissa is wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Monitoring and evaluation constitute an integral component of adult education programme. The quantitative and qualitative progress of the programme is monitored every quarter at the State and Central level. In addition Institutions of Social Sciences Research have been commissioned to undertake external evaluation of different aspects of the programme like the Rural Functional Literacy Projects, State Adult Education Programme, implemented by Voluntary agencies and Universities. The major points emerging from the various evaluation studies and monitoring reports include the following:—

1. The programme has 95 per cent coverage of rural areas.

2. The participation of women has increased steadily and as on December 85, women formed nearly 54.1 per cent of the total learners enrolled.

3. Participation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have increased and as on December, 85, their enrolment was 25.82 per cent and 14.32 per cent respectively.

4. The programme has an extensive technical resource support.

(b) No such allegation against the programme of adult education in Orissa has come to notice.

Loss incurred by the Paradip Port Trust

219. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the loss incurred by Paradip Port Trust during the year 1985-86;

(b) whether any responsibility has been fixed for sinking of two valuable dredgers one after another inside Paradip Port;

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring employees and what is the extent of loss due to the sinking of two dredgers; and

(d) whether there was an appreciable increase in cargo handling in the year 1985-86 as compared to that in the year 1974-75 and 1975-76?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A net deficit of Rs. 4,51,02,500/- is anticipated according to the revised estimate for 1985-86 for Paradip Port Trust.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes. The traffic handled at Paradip Port during 1985-86 was 3.33 million tonnes as against 2.61 million tonnes in 1974-75 and 3.29 million tonnes in 1975-76.